No. 2
Dec., 1974

The HEROINE ADDICT

THE HEROINE ADDICT #2, December, 1974. Published bimonthly by THE COMICS HEROINES FAN CLUB, a division of The Adventure Heroines Publishing Association, Box 10956, Baltimore, Md. 21234. *Contents copyright (c) 1974 by Albert Tanner unless otherwise indicated. Artwork includes original illustrations of characters copyrighted by National Periodical Publications, Inc. and Marvel Comics Group. The opinions which writers express are entirely their own and do not necessarily represent those of the publishing organization. All material submitted becomes the property of the publisher unless otherwise arranged by mutual agreement.*

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Club members receive copies of all AHPA publications, which include bimonthly fanzine issues and our separate fully-illustrated fiction publications.

The club's publishing and mailing costs are met by the payment of membership dues, supplemented by minimal charges to advertisers and by the direct sale of publications to nonmembers. The club-dues account of each member is being charged $1.00 for THE HEROINE ADDICT #2.

Except where otherwise indicated, address all THA and club correspondence to:

Albert Tanner
Box 10956
Baltimore, Md. 21234

TO JOIN THE CHFC ...

To join and receive all AHPA publications by first class mail, send an initial dues (subscription) payment of $3.00. Checks must be made payable to A.S. Turner. You will receive a registration form on which you can indicate your own specific club interests, if any. Please help boost comics heroines by passing the word to other potential new CHFC members!

CONTRIBUTIONS

We are happy to receive and consider contributions of written material and/or artwork for potential publication by the AHPA. No unsolicited contribution can be returned unless accompanied by an SASE with sufficient postage.

"Letters to the editor" are always welcome and are published as time and space allow.

THE ADVENTURE HEROINES
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Tom Luth: pages 10, 14, 32
Tom O'Reilly: pages 6, 8, 18
Bob Rodi: pages 2↓, 28
Carol Strickland: pages 2↑, 2←, 5, 25↓, 27
Scott Taylor: pages 4→, 26, 30
Mercy VanVlack: pages 3, 4, 12, 13, 15, 25↑, 34
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→ Make checks payable to A.S. Turner; send cash at your own risk.
→ All ads must be submitted in the sizes specified. These sizes will be slightly reduced in the printing process.

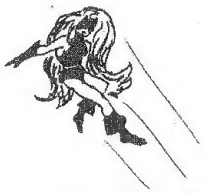
WHAT A CRUSHING BLOW!

Did you miss THA #1, the issue which explained our organization and publishing plans, and which was received with such delight by its readers? Well, even if you did, there's no need to be all broken up about it. It's not toolate for you to start a *complete* collection of all AHPA publications!

As long as our supply lasts, copies of THE HEROINE ADDICT #1 can be ordered by subscribing members for 75¢ (which we will deduct from your club-dues account at your request) and by nonmembers for $1.00.

Some who *did* receive THA #1 are already ordering *extra* copies, realizing that, like all first issues of successful magazines, these may have a special value on the collectors' market before long!

We Get The Message

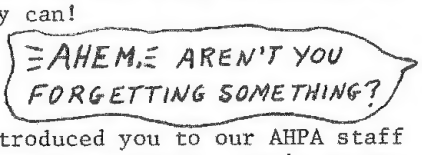


by Albert Tanner, editor

Thanks for all your letters of comment on THA #1! We were really glad to receive them for two reasons: first because feedback from readers concerning the contents and quality of an issue is always most helpful to any editor, and second because so many of your thoughtful letters have been just plain interesting and a lot of fun to read.

One point has been made in the great majority of the letters and notes we have received: you want *more*! It's not that our readers felt cheated by the price and length of THA #1; on the contrary, many veteran fans say they were surprised and delighted to receive so *much* in our very first issue! It's just that the majority liked what they found there so much that the issue "seemed to end too soon." Twenty pages just was not enough to satisfy their appetite for this kind of first class illos and interesting articles!

Okay, we get the message. You've asked for more: we're *giving* you more, *much* more. We've added some very promising new staff members. We've added several important new features, with others also being planned for future issues. We've met a frequent request by including *even more* illustrations than before. And we've *greatly* increased our page-count. Of course we've also had to increase the price for this issue...but I'll bet you have beaten me to the punch by noting already that the price *per page* has been *reduced.* (Unfortunately, we've heard from *unimpeachable* sources in Washington that "the war against inflation is over....Inflation won." But *we* won't give up; we'll fight to keep prices down despite the odds!) As our CHFC membership continues to increase, we plan to continue to lower the per-page price we have to charge you for an issue. *You* can *help*, of course, by recruiting new members if and when you possibly can!



Hey, there was something important I wanted to do.... Oh, yes. Now I remember! The charming young character who introduced you to our AHPA staff on page 3 now deserves an introduction herself. She's Chefac. The moment I met her (through artist Mercy Van Vlack), I knew that Chefac would be the perfect little gal to be your...well, your "official hostess" in THA, making announcements for us and all that sort of thing. Don't you agree?... You'd *better* agree! Chefac has the power to put the whamy on you if you make like a villain!

If you make like a *hero*, she hasn't said exactly *what* she'll do, but...Hey, I just realized, Chefac's name reminds me a little of CHFC...and now that I divert my gaze to her *costume*, it seems to spell out "The Heroine Addict."...Did you notice that, Mercy? That's a *hell* of a coincidence! (Oh, I'll bet you knew it all along! But that does not prove that you gals are more observant than us men. It just proves that ...Oh, you know damn *well* what it proves.)

Not that there's any connection, but it's interesting to note that our CHFC membership questionnaires indicate an average age of about 21 for our subscribing members. That's considerably older than the average age of most fan organizations. Interesting, isn't it?

Speaking of age - or of maturity, actually - both our staff members and our readers as a whole have thus far expressed full agreement with our policy

of sticking to an adult vocabulary rather than communicating in the kinds of terms which little boys like to scribble on the bathroom walls. I don't believe obscenity shocks or offends any of us, but apparently we have all outgrown the stage at which we got a big kick out of "proving our right" to use it in print. We'll continue to leave the kid stuff out of our AHPA 'zines.

You'll note that in this issue we have listed the complete AHPA staff as it now stands. This includes some writers and artists who are not regular contributors to THA, but whose work we expect to feature in our separate fiction publications. We've been happy to find so many talented people who are interested in the AHPA.

Several staff members have taken the time to write us detailed letters analyzing the content of THA #1 and discussing their views in general. Such letters are one measure of these people's genuine interest in the club and its plans, and they are invaluable to us. You will notice, however, that for the most part we will turn the THA lettercols themselves over to those who are *not* regular staff members, but who are nevertheless solid supporters of the club.

Speaking of support, we are glad to publish our first ads in this issue, especially because these are the kinds of ads we think you will find to be both attractive and interesting. Please consider what our advertisers have to offer, for by dealing with *them*, you will be indirectly supporting the CHFC itself. Needless to say, we hope you will also consider placing some ads of your *own* in THA.

Plans are being discussed for the possible publication of a separate CHFC *letterzine* by a special committee of interested members. Issues would probably be dittoed or mimeographed in order to keep the costs to a bare minimum. I think this project should be of interest especially to those of you who are not regular contributors to THA. If you would like to take part, at least by writing letters regularly for inclusion in a club letterzine, get in touch with Scott Gibson, Route #1, Box 339F, Evergreen, Colorado 80439. Whether we proceed with the idea or not will depend upon what he hears from you.

By the way, through an oversight on both our parts, Scott and I omitted the by-line "by Scott Gibson" from the heading of his article about Shanna in THA #1. It's a pleasure now to give him belated credit for a fine job.

Be on the lookout for new illustrated CHFC announcements in such publications as RB&CC, The Nostalgia Journal, and Batmania. Our industrious advertising manager, Mercy Van Vlack, with help from others, has been hard at work on the layouts, and they should be well worth seeing!

Well, let us know what you think of this, our second issue, including the lettercol, The Artist's Forum, and all the other new features and ideas. Also remember the December 1 deadline for sending in your nominations for our first CHFC awards.

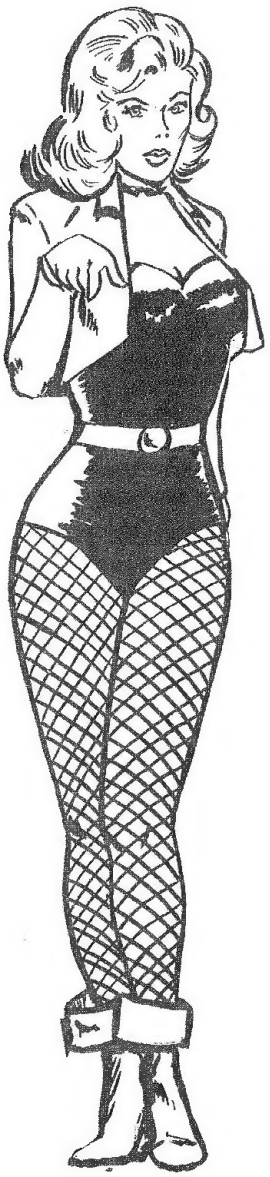
~ ~ ~ ~

WARNING: The Surgeon General has determined that although not dangerous to your health, heroine addiction is habit-forming.

HIT OR MISS

PART 2

by JEFF THOMPSON



Hit - a word difficultly described. Last issue, in the first part of this two-part article, we discussed possible reasons for some comic heroines' becoming immediate hits, while many other fighting females missed and soon vanished from the comics.

A blond, ebon-clad heroine from the Golden Age who was not nearly as spectacular as the perennial Wonder Woman but who has proven her staying power is Black Canary. She got her start as a female Robin Hood in Johnny Thunder's strip in FLASH COMICS #86, (August, 1947). Flower shop owner Dinah Drake, alias the Black Canary, later revised her methods and became a full-fledged super-heroine and a member of the Justice Society of America. She began romancing Johnny Thunder, the Justice Society's comic relief, soon after her debut in his strip; and, strangely enough, Thunder disappeared completely a few months later, surrendering his residence in FLASH COMICS to the Canary, a much more popular character with the majority of comic book readers.

Eventually Larry Lance, a bumbling private detective, materialized in Black Canary's strip as her comic relief. Larry was forever getting into trouble and needing rescuing by Black Canary, much like Wonder Woman's Steve Trevor, in early stories of the Amazon Princess. The bolero-jacketed, fishnet-stockinged heroine finally married Larry Lance, only to have the private eye struck down years later, in 1969, by Aquarius, the Living Star, in the JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA magazine. This complex female then went through endless throes of remorse as a prominent character in the defunct GREEN LANTERN & GREEN ARROW comic magazine. Now, Black Canary is running around with the Emerald Archer in ACTION COMICS, and is a member of the Justice League.

The probable reason for the success of this heroine, who originally had no supranormal abilities (as Wonder Woman had), is the fact that male readers admired, and female readers were able to identify with, a feminine crimefighter with only the physical abilities of a woman in great shape at her disposal. It was not until much later that Black Canary's strange, uncontrollable mutant sonic power was added to her list of attributes.

"But I tell you I saw Superman last night!" Ever since Daily Star reporter Lois Lane said that to the newspaper's editor in ACTION COMICS #1 (June, 1938), she (in her own magazine, in Superman's comic, ACTION COMICS, ADVENTURE COMICS, WORLD'S FINEST COMICS, and other DC magazines) has been trying to prove that her beloved Man of Steel and milktoast reporter Clark Kent are one and the same, scheming to get Superman to marry her, occasionally fighting crime, and going to any incredible length to get a "scoop." Why has this conniving, often annoying newspaperwoman survived already for thirty-six years?

Perhaps it is because when Lois began her illustrious career, she was a novelty. Superman's girl friend commanded a variety of plot possibilities.

Lois Lane gained her own magazine in 1958; she premiered in her own, four-page solo strip in Superman's magazine in SUPERMAN #28 (May-June, 1944), as a comedy feature, a far cry from the dramatic events in SUPERMAN'S GIRL FRIEND, LOIS LANE #120 (March, 1972) and #121 (April, 1972), the issues which chronicled the supposed death of Lois' sister Lucy Lane and the girl reporter's radical change in her lifestyle.

In SUPERMAN #28, the impulsive Daily Planet (not Star anymore) reporter walks out on a building ledge in an attempt to reason with the suicidal man out there. Naturally, our heroine slips off the narrow ledge; and, after falling through a series of awnings, Lois is caught in a police net. Later, the suicidal man, who did not jump after seeing how dangerous it was, said to Lois, "You're wonderful, Miss Lane! The next time I commit suicide, it's going to be over you!"

In her second solo story, Lois Lane exposes a gambling ring; her third outing has her outwitting a con man; et cetera. Virtually all of Lois' early misadventures were like the future television antics of Lucille Ball.

When Lois Lane moved into her own comic magazine twenty years after her debut, she kept the readers guessing as to the nature of her escapade in the upcoming issue. Lois became a youngish Mary Worth, interferring in her friends' love lives, plotting to snare Superman, "turning into" this and that, pursuing "scoops," thwarting criminals, and dreaming of what life would be like as Mrs. Lois Superman - a myriad of plots, yet all with a liberal dose of Superman.

In this writer's opinion, Lois Lane's finest hour was circa 1970-1972 (DC's "relevant period"), the halcyon era of the late Werner Roth's artwork on the news journalist's magazine, Lois and Superman's struggles for urban renewal and against The 100, the actual Morgan Edge's confinement in the secret cubicle in his penthouse, Darkseid, and The Thorn (another wonderful comics heroine). Recently, the girl reporter's hour has run out, in my estimation. The clincher was the cancellation of Lois' magazine and the editors' dumping her into the semi-annual SUPERMAN FAMILY slot. Can this vivacious, entertaining, indentifiable newspaperwoman continue to succeed under these adverse circumstances? Alas, time will tell the tale.

A study in origins: circus acrobat Kathy Kane yearned to be like the Batman, to use her athletic skills, not for shows, but against crime. When her uncle died and willed her his entire fortune, Kathy was able to realize her dream and become a Batwoman. Kathy built a Bat-Cave beneath her new mansion, constructed a Bat-Cycle, and designed a costume - and Batwoman was born! These events occurred in DETECTIVE COMICS #233 (July, 1956), the initial appearance of the female Batman. A decade later, Batwoman appeared only as Kathy Kane in an imaginary story in WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #157 (May, 1966) and has never been seen in new material in DC Comics to date. Batwoman was last seen in costume in another imaginary tale in WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #157 (December, 1965).

Barbara Gordon, a quiet librarian and daughter to Gotham City police commissioner Gordon, designed an interesting "Batgirl" costume to wear to the Policemen's Masquerade Ball. As she was driving to the gala, Barbara, clad in her Batgirl outfit, stumbled upon the super-villain Killer Moth and his lackeys

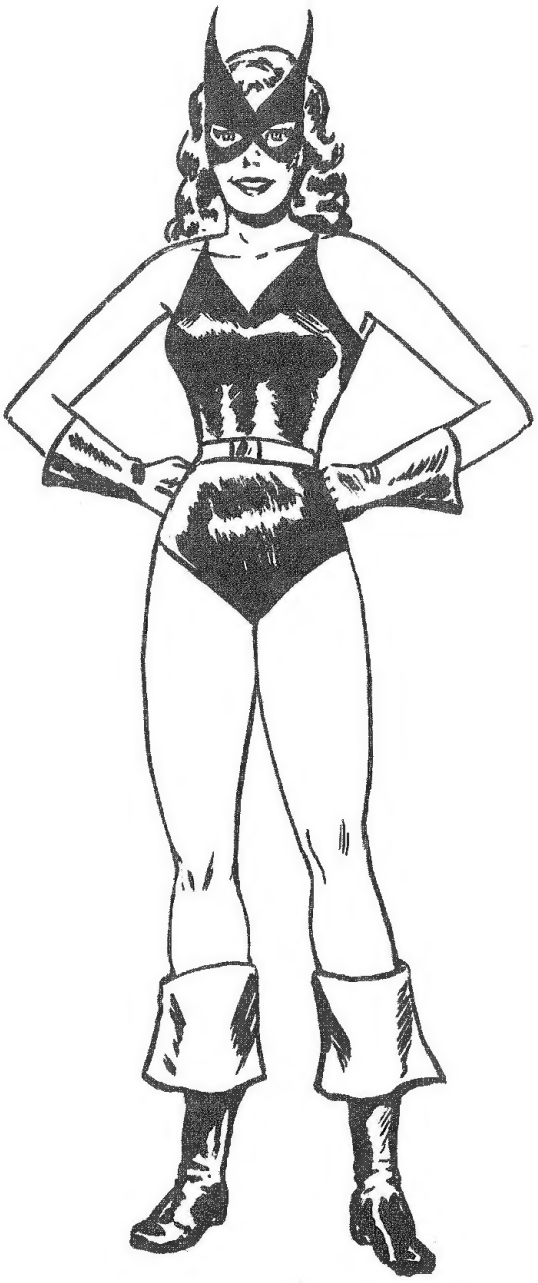
kidnapping millionnaire Bruce Wayne. Wayne managed to escape, and instants later Batman appeared on the scene. The Masked Manhunter and Batgirl then defeated Killer Moth and his henchmen. This incident, presented in DETECTIVE COMICS #359 (January, 1967), caused Barbara Gordon to permanently adopt the guise of Batgirl and become a female Caped Crusader, guarding her true identity from even her commissioner father.

Kathy Kane, a.k.a. Batwoman, fought crime alongside various male super-heroes for ten years, then vanished. Batgirl, the second attempt at a feminine Batman, has fought with Batman and Robin, as well as independently, in DETECTIVE COMICS. Shortly after Batgirl's strip left the pages of DC's oldest title, that magazine's sales tumbled downward rapidly and soon was forced to go bi-monthly. The readers, obviously liking Batgirl very much, have demanded two Batgirl team-ups with Superman in the Man of Steel's comic magazine.

The mystery is why the first bat-female (Batwoman) flourished for a time and then vanished, while the second feminine Batman (Batgirl) has survived for seven years already and is even now popular, despite Barbara Gordon's supposed renouncement of her Batgirl identity in favor of her Congressional seat.

Possibly the key to the riddle lies within the females' origins, perhaps in their forthcoming careers. This writer proposes both. Batwoman's origin was very unoriginal and uninteresting. Psychologically, this probably got the character "off to a bad start" with many readers. Batgirl's beginning was more offbeat and much more haphazard and impromptu than Batwoman's. Barbara Gordon had no desire to become a super-heroine before that encounter with Batman and Killer Moth. Ms. Gordon was fated to become a crimefighter - while Ms. Kane was not. Who is to say whether or not there is some truth in fate or predestination, yet this topic, veiled in mystery and the unknown, is a fascinating one, and an intriguing concept (like ghosts and vampires) easily adaptable and attractive to comic books and their readers.

In the ladies' later crime-busting lives, Batgirl always seemed more independent than Batwoman in my opinion. When the latter appeared with the Dynamic Duo, she often needed to be rescued in the end, as in the case of a hero's girl friend,



THE BLACK CAT

and not the case of a hero's equal.

Hollywood actress Linda Turner, alias Black Cat, a red-haired, motorcycle-riding karate and judo expert with no super-powers, first saw the light in POCKET COMICS #1 (August, 1941), published by Home Comics (later Harvey Comics). She later moved into SPEED COMICS, then gained her own magazine in 1946. Black Cat, whose costume was similar to the Black Widow's first uniform, was a ray of difference in Golden Age comicdom's legions of solemn super-heroines, as she was a more frivolous, light-hearted heroine. Black Cat had a rather extensive following, but was killed by comics' number one enemy, Dr. Frederic Wertham. The black-garbed heroine was criticized by the author of Seduction of the Innocent because of the reasonably detailed martial arts demonstrations found in the pages of BLACK CAT COMICS. Here is a case of a pretty good comics heroine's career being nipped in the bud not by low sales figures, but by outside, influential media. Ms. Black Cat could not endure the attack on her by Wertham as other heroines, such as Wonder Woman, could.

Socialite Sandra Knight, daughter of a crusading senator, decided to do more for her country than talk a good fight, and donned the revealing, lemon-lime costume of the Phantom Lady, equipped with a kayoing "Black Beam," her stamina, and her wits. She originally appeared in Quality Comics' POLICE COMICS #1 (August, 1941); PHANTOM LADY #1 was dated August, 1947. Twenty years later, she was briefly revived along with Quality's Human Bomb, Doll Man, Uncle Sam, The Ray and The Black Condor in JUSTICE LEAGUE OF AMERICA #107 (September-October, 1973) and #108 (November-December, 1973). This heroine bit the dust, let's face it, simply because she was not that Earth-shaking of a heroine, as Wonder Woman, Black Canary and Mary Marvel proved to be. Also, Phantom Lady bordered on the ridiculous, as not even Sandra's father knew of her double identity - yet she wore no mask! A typical example of Phantom Lady's corny dialogue is, "America comes first, even before Dad!" Additionally, this super-heroine was probably not aimed at the general comics-reading public, but to adolescent boys (as many Golden Age heroines were); Phantom Lady's artists tended to exaggerate her anatomy at times.

The newest comics heroine to come on the scene is Charlton Comics' Liberty Belle, whose strip began in the back of E-MAN #5 (November, 1974). Fashion designer Caroline Dean, who dons the star-spangled outfit of Liberty Belle to battle Communists for the United States government, seems to this writer a cheap imitation of Wonder Woman. Liberty Belle's career would be aborted if it were up to me. Yet, "hit" is a word difficultly described.

heroine oddities

by Scott Gibson

* EC's old heroine magazine, MOON GIRL, underwent a startling change after a scant eight issues; those first eight were all titled after the leading character, Moon Girl. But, without warning, #9 hit the stands as, A MOON, A GIRL, A ROMANCE. A drastic case of revamping!

* In WONDER WOMAN #179, the first non-super-powered Diana Prince issue, the closing page of the story finds Di and her new-found mentor, I-Ching walking down a New York street. A gunman is crouched in hiding, waiting to shoot them. The story picks up exactly at that point at the start of #180, with Diana and I-Ching still about to be fired on. Yet, between issues, Di has apparently found time to change her dress...In #179, she is wearing a purple garment, but in the next issue, it is a bright yellow...

Since this is the first installment of this column, I feel I should give you a brief idea of what I intend to do with it in the future. This column will be devoted to the amateur/fan artist as an open forum for artists to discuss aspects of drawing, its problems and its techniques, along with discussion of artists and their work, both pro and fan.

I feel that a column of this type can be very helpful to the artist. I have found that one of the best ways for one to learn is by working with other artists, and this column will allow several artists to exchange information and ideas.

This is not a question-and-answer column, where I answer your questions, for I'm not necessarily more qualified to answer than anyone else, but a forum in which YOU participate, although I will indeed throw in my own opinions. Feel free to discuss any aspect of art that interests you.

Write to: AHPA ARTIST'S FORUM
c/o Tom Luth
2543 Sunnyside Ridge Road
Palos Verdes Pen.
California 90274

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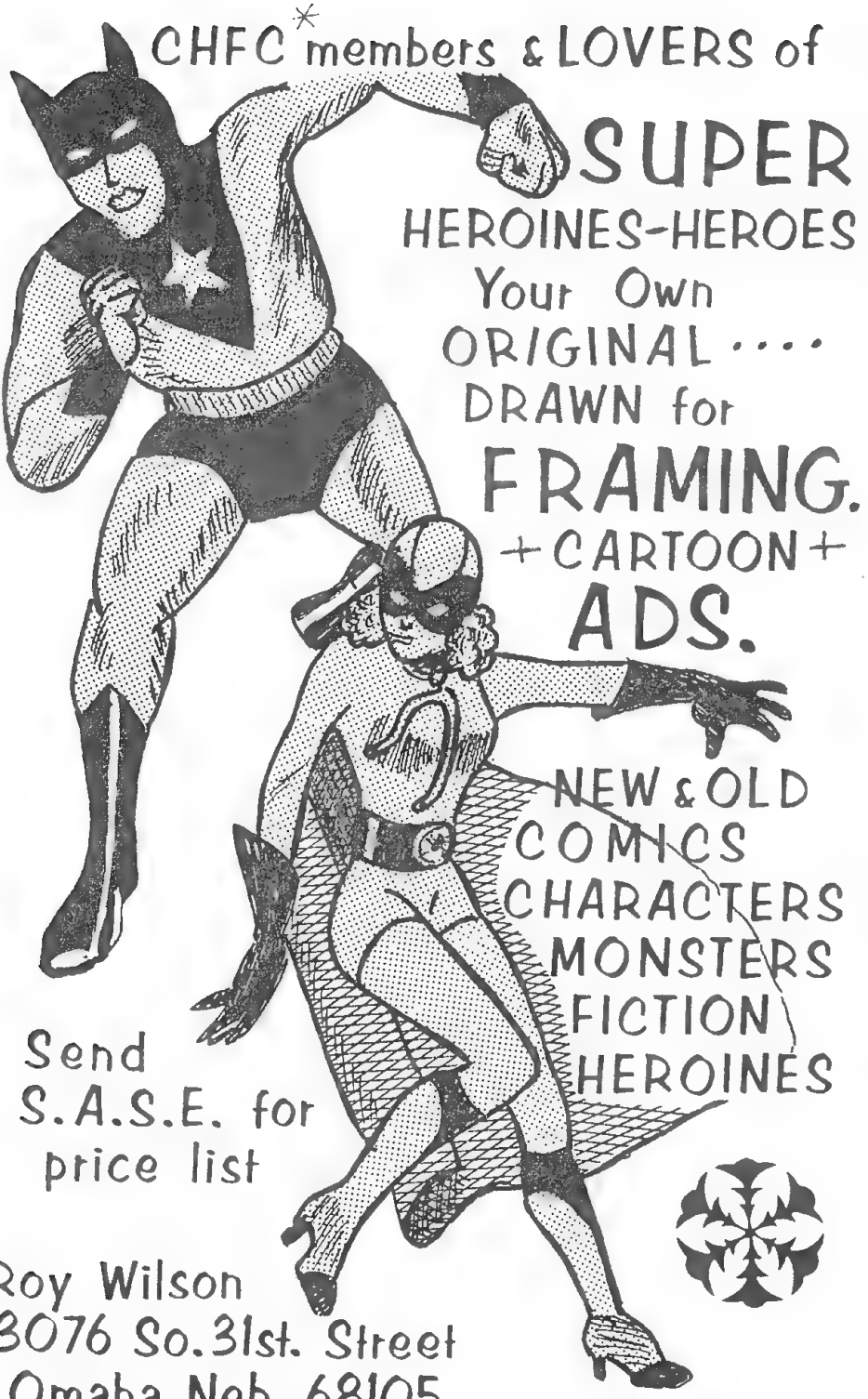
Since I don't have any comments from readers as yet, obviously, I think it would be helpful to supply some information which will answer one of the questions most often asked by beginning artists: What materials do the pros work with? Fot the past three years I've been spending my summers in New York trying to get into comics, where I've met with several pro artists and have discussed their materials and techniques.

Comic pages are drawn on two- or three-ply vellum surface bristol board, usually Strathmore, at 10" by 15" which is later reduced. For pencils, the pros do not seem to be picky; any #2 writing or HB drawing pencil is fine. For inking, the unanimous choice of brush is the Winsor-Newton series 7, size 1 or 2. However, since these brushes are quite expensive and do not last long at all, often less than a week with professional use, you might want to experiment with less costly red sable brushes. Just about every pen on the market is being used by different artists. Lettering is done with a Speedball FB6, at 1/8" high. The ink itself is either Higgins or Pelikan, and often a mixture of both.

As for training, most of the pros I've met are self-taught, having learned artist's anatomy - this is most important to all artists - from text books. George Bridgeman's and Andrew Loomis's life drawing books are the most frequently recommended. However, there are a few artists, Romita and Adams for example, who have gone through art schools.

That's it for now. I hope some of this is helpful, and I'll be waiting to hear just what areas of the art field are of interest to you.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Spotlight ON the AVENGERS GALS

The Wasp

(JANET VAN DYNE; NOW PYM) FIRST APPEARED IN TALES TO ASTONISH 44, BUT IN AVENGERS 1-16, 26-60 (EXCEPT 27) - SHE TOOK A LEAVE OF ABSENCE WITH GIANT-MAN, THEN IN 60 SHE MARRIED HIM (WHEN HE WAS YELLOWJACKET) THEN WENT ON THEIR HONEYMOON, RETURNING IN 63 TO 75, & RETURNED FOR ONE ISSUE TO JOIN THE VALKYRIE'S LADY LIBERATORS. THEN SHE RETURNED IN 90 AND 91 AFTER SHE CALLED THE AVENGERS TO INVESTIGATE HANK'S DISAPPEARANCE. AT THE END OF THIS ADVENTURE THEY BOTH RESIGNED. THEY BOTH RETURNED FOR THE LANDMARK 100th ISSUE, NOT SEEN IN AVENGERS SINCE THEN; ALTHOUGH SHE APPEARED IN SEVERAL STORIES IN MARVEL FEATURE WITH HER HUSBAND.

WHEN SHE SHRINKS TO WASP SIZE, WINGS APPEAR SO SHE CAN FLY. HANK MADE A "WASP STINGER" WRISTLET WEAPON FOR HER IN SPIDER-MAN SPECIAL #8, WHERE SHE TOOK ON SPIDEY IN BATTLE.

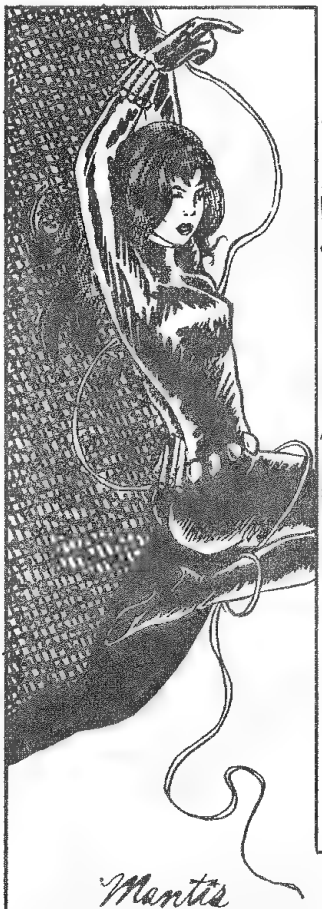
Scarlet Witch

JOINED WITH HER BROTHER IN AVENGERS 76. OH, YES, HER REAL NAME IS WANDA FRANK, AND HER MOTHER WAS THE GOLDEN AGE MISS AMERICA. SHE APPEARED FROM AVENGERS 16-30, WHEN SHE AND QUICKSILVER TOOK A LEAVE OF ABSENCE TO REGAIN THEIR FADING POWERS. SHE RETURNED IN 36 AND REMAINED UNTIL 49 WHEN SHE WAS WOUNDED AND TAKEN CAPTIVE BY MAGNETO. SHE THEN LOST HER HEX POWER AND APPEARED BRIEFLY IN 53, AND AT THE END OF THAT ISSUE SHE, QUICKSILVER, AND THE TOAD FLEW OFF IN ONE OF MAGNETO'S SHIPS. THEY CAME BACK IN 75, AND THEIR LONG ABSENCE WAS EXPLAINED. SHE WAS CAPTURED BY THE SENTINELS IN 102, RETURNING IN 104. FROM THERE SHE HAS BEEN IN EVERY ISSUE. SHE IS CURRENTLY STUDYING WITH AGATHA HARKNESS TO LEARN HOW TO CONTROL HER MUTANT POWER TO SEND "HEXES" AT HER BIDDING.

Black Widow

(NATASHA ROMANOFF) FIRST APPEARED WITH THE AVENGERS IN 29, WHERE SHE RECRUITED SWORDSMAN AND POWERMAN TO HELP HER FIGHT THE AVENGERS. AT THE END OF #30 IT WAS REVEALED THAT SHE HAD BEEN BRAINWASHED. SHE THEN APPEARED IN 32, 33, 35, 36, AND 37, HELPING

please move to the next page for MORE on the Black Widow, Mantis, ETC!



THE **AVENGERS**, THOUGH NOT A MEMBER. IN 38 THEY ATTEMPTED TO INDUCT HER, BUT SHE HAD BEEN ASSIGNED A MISSION BY **S.H.I.E.L.D.** AND COULD NOT EXPLAIN WHY SHE MUST APPEAR TO BE A TRAITOR. SHE WAS TO INFILTRATE RED CHINA, WHICH SHE DID IN 41 AND 42. IN 43 **HAWKEYE** AND **HERCULES** FOLLOWED HER, WHERE THEY MET HER HUSBAND, **THE RED GUARDIAN**. IN 44, THE REST OF THE **AVENGERS** FOLLOWED THEM, AND IN THE BATTLE SHE WAS WOUNDED. THE ENEMY HQ WAS DESTROYED AND **THE RED GUARDIAN** DIED IN THE EXPLOSION. IN **AVENGERS** 45 SHE WAS OFFERED MEMBERSHIP AT LAST, BUT SHE HAD DECIDED TO GIVE UP HER COSTUMED IDENTITY. IN 57 SHE RESUMED HER COSTUME TO ACCEPT ANOTHER MISSION FOR **S.H.I.E.L.D.** APPARENTLY THE MEMBERSHIP OFFER DID NOT HOLD, FOR SHE WAS NOT OFFERED IT. IN 63 **HAWKEYE** BECAME **GOLIATH** TO SAVE HER. THEN SHE MADE A BRIEF APPEARANCE IN 64. IN 76 SHE RETURNED TO TELL **GOLIATH** THAT SHE COULD NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN; THAT SHE NEVER LOVED HIM. OF COURSE, NEXT MONTH **SPIDER-MAN** 86 CAME OUT, WHEREIN SHE TOOK A NEW COSTUME AND NEW DIRECTION, AND THEN CAME HER OWN SERIES IN ***AMAZING ADVENTURES***. SHE GUEST-STARRED IN 83 AS ONE OF THE **LADY LIBERATORS**. *MEANWHILE* SHE WAS GETTING INVOLVED WITH **DAREDEVIL**, AND IT WAS IN **DAREDEVIL** 99 THAT SHE WAS FINALLY MADE AN **AVENGER**. SHE APPEARED IN 111 AND 112, THEN RESIGNED TO RETURN TO **DAREDEVIL**.

Mantis

(REAL NAME UNKNOWN) FIRST APPEARED IN **AVENGERS** 94. FROM THERE SHE HAS BEEN IN EVERY ISSUE. THE **AVENGERS** HAVE BEEN TRYING TO FIND OUT HER ORIGIN. SHE IS NOT REALLY AN **AVENGER**. SHE ONLY STAYED BECAUSE **SWORDSMAN** RESUMED HIS MEMBERSHIP, FELL IN LOVE WITH THE **VISION**, CAUSING FRICTION WITH THE **SCARLET WITCH**. MISTRESS OF THE MARTIAL ARTS AND AN EMPATH - ABLE TO FEEL THE PAIN OF OTHERS AND "SENSE" WHEN THINGS ARE GO OR NO.

Sif

(THAT **IS** HER REAL NAME) WHILE SHE AND SEVERAL **ASGARDIANS** WERE EXILED TO EARTH AND STAYING IN **AVENGERS MANSION**, SIF FOUGHT WITH THE **AVENGERS** *IN* **AVENGERS** 105.

CHARACTERS AND LOGO COPYRIGHT 1974 MARVEL COMICS GROUP

READERS ASSEMBLE!

The SCRIPT from this issue's SPOTLIGHT is from **DWAYNE BEST** - *And I need more researched run-downs on the HEROINES of the COMICS! Please send comments, scripts and suggestions to * Mercy Van Vlack * 1939 Township Line Rd * Norristown, Pa. 19401* Merci from Mercy!

Vault Of Villainesses

by Dwayne Best

Among the many evil ladies thet battle both heroes and heroines, the Enchantress, that wicked Asgardian sorceress, must stand out as one of the most important. She made her premiere appearance in Journey into Mystery 103. In that issue she was allied to the Executioner, whose name came to be linked with hers most often, although she has also teamed with Ares, Power Man, and Arkon the Magnificent. With the Executioner she has joined Zemo's Masters of Evil and the Mandarin's group of super-villains in Avengers Special 1.

When she first appeared, she was in love with Thor. This affection was briefly transferred to Power Man (the villain), and then more strongly, to Hercules. The Executioner, who loved her all along, finally became disgusted with this and left her for Casiolena, the sorceress-queen of another dimension. The heroes who have been charmed into falling in love with her are Thor (Avengers 7), Hercules (Avengers 38), and the Black Knight (Avengers 84, Defenders 4).

Her powers of sorcery are varied, but weaker than Loki's or Dormammu's, and seldom used to full potential. When she was exiled from Asgard (following Hulk 102), her powers were halved, although she has since restored them. These powers have made the Scarlet Witch her most natural adversary, and they have met in battle four times, matching mutant hex power for Asgardian enchantment. The Enchantress is the stronger of the two, unless caught by surprise, but now that Wanda is expanding her powers (see recent Avengers issues) the two might be more evenly matched.

Her speech pattern has been subtly altered since her first appearance. While her vocabulary has always been refined and somewhat above average, in her last three appearances she has taken the archaic Asgardian style, which, perhaps, is more suitable.

By far her most famous action has been the creation of the Valkyrie. This was an identity she assumed in Avengers 83. She next gave the Valkyrie identity to Samantha Parrington in Hulk 142, and then to the current owner, Barbara Denton, in Defenders 4. She assumed the Valkyrie guise again in her latest appearance, Marvel Two-in-One 7. Then the real Valkyrie arrived on the scene, and, allied with the Thing, defeated the Enchantress and the Executioner (who she rejoined in Defenders 4). But, like most comics villainesses, she won't stay defeated long. She'll be back...the only question is - when?

EDITOR'S NOTE: Let us know if you would like to see more THA features dealing with comics villainesses. We would also like to know whether you appreciate the kind of appearance chart which follows.

THE ENCHANTRESS' APPEARANCES (in chronological order)

J.I.M. 103 (c,wE)
Avengers 7 (c,wE)
Avengers 9 (c,wE)
Avengers 10 (wE)
Avengers 15 (c,wE)
Avengers 16 (c,wE)
J.I.M. 116 (wE)
J.I.M. 117 (wE)
Avengers 21
Avengers 22 (c)
F.F. Special 3 (c,wE)
Avengers 38 (c)
Avengers Special 1(c,wE)
Hulk 102 (wE)
Avengers Special 2 (cameo,wE)
Avengers 83 (c,as V)
Avengers 84 (c)
Hulk 142
Avengers 100
Defenders 4
Marvel Two-in-One 7 (c,as V,wE)

ABBREVIATIONS: J.I.M.=Journey into Mystery...c=cover appearance wE=with Executioner...F.F.=Fantastic Four...as V=as Valkyrie...

Let's Hear You!

Nominations!

HEROINE MOST IN NEED OF REVIVAL

BEST HEROINE COSTUME

We hereby call for your nominations for the first two of our CHFC national comics awards. What previously established heroine, not currently being featured regularly in new stories, would *you* most like to see the prozines revive now in new stories on a regular basis? Of the costumes worn by the "costumed" heroines of the past and present, which is *your* all-time favorite?

- AWARDS PROCEDURES AND RULES -

1. Each THA issue will list, for a vote by the CHFC membership, the entries which have been nominated and will also call for nominations in new categories. (Your first nominations will be listed in THA #3.)

2. You may make THREE nominations in EACH category, but be sure to indicate clearly which is your first, second and third choice. These will receive 5 points, 3 points, and one point respectively; and the few which receive the most total points will be considered as nominated.

3. In the final balloting, you may vote for your first, second and third choice among the nominees listed in each category.

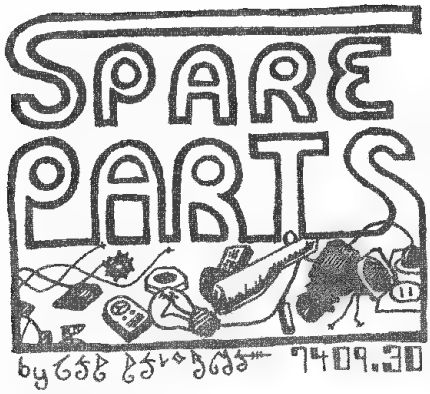
4. Nominations or votes received after the announced DEADLINES or not in accordance with other rules will be invalid.

5. THA will publish the final results of the voting in all categories and will also send appropriate notification and comment to the prozines involved. (The latter step is one way in which we can help make the publishers aware of the fans' views and preferences.)

THE DEADLINE FOR THE CATEGORIES ABOVE IS DECEMBER 1, 1974.

INTERESTED IN A COMICS CAREER?

For a booklet entitled A Career For You In The Comics plus an illustrated "history" of American comics, send 25¢ plus 24¢ postage to the Newspaper Comics Council, Inc., 260 Madison Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10016.



Greetings, humans! In this, my debut as a department editor, I'll be presenting to you a collection of startling facts, unusual news, off-beat theories, and monumental trivia, all relating to the worlds of the adventure heroine. Onward!

ITEM ** The ABC movie "WONDER WOMAN" scored a big, beautiful sixth in the Nielsens for the week of March 10th! That, amigos, is fantastic, especially for a novelty show. However, the network biggies, far-famed for keeping far away from things far-out, decided against a series based on the show. No favorable influence was Judith Crist, when she mentioned in her TV Guide column that the movie was "a stumbling attempt to re-create the comic book character of the forties that comes a cropper with inept acting by Cathy Lee Crosby et al. and a plot as humorless as it is preposterous." While not casting any aspersions on Ms. Crist's non-existant reviewing ability (doesn't she ever like a movie?!), her reflections on "WONDER WOMAN" have several flaws. Such as, what does she mean by "attempt to re-create the comic book character of the forties?" It seemed to me this was a new Wonder Woman, somewhat resembling the O'Neil/Giordano version of a few years back, but with the old Paradise Island ties of the Kanigher/Andru days. The comic book character of the forties was nowhere to be seen. "Humorless?" Aw, I thought Di got in some good lines here and there, but who said it was supposed to be funny? Ms. Crist must have her confused with Betty and Veronica. "Preposterous?" It wasn't really any more unusual than the James Bond films of the sixties, or the kung fu kickers of the seventies. Does it really matter, when the whole beauty of comics is their lack of restriction to reality? Or, to paraphrase Diana Prince, "Poo! I'll bet you old movie reviewers never have any fun." End of comment. By the way, I'll be offering the soundtrack of the movie for sale in my ad next issue, so watch for it.

ITEM ** Charlton, which recently revived their line of superhero comics with E-Man and Yang (both of which are worth a try), is reportedly giving serious consideration to adding a heroine. E-Man #5's back-up feature was "Liberty Belle" (no relation to National's character of the same name), under the talented leadership of George (editor) Wildman, Joe (Yang) Gill, and Steve (Spiderman) Ditko. If you happen to have a stamp handy, write to encourage Libby's own mag. How can you lose with Steve Ditko as artist? The address is: E-MAIL, Charlton Publications, Charlton Building, Derby, Connecticut, 06418. A worthy cause.

ITEM ** The October issue of The Monster Times, #36, carried an article on superheroines in the comics by Howard Phillips which was poorly researched, boring, insulting, and not even good for a few laughs. If you haven't read it yet, you've missed it. Consider yourself lucky.

ITEM ** Does Big Barda design clothes for Carmilla Frost? Look again at the latest Amazing Adventures and see.

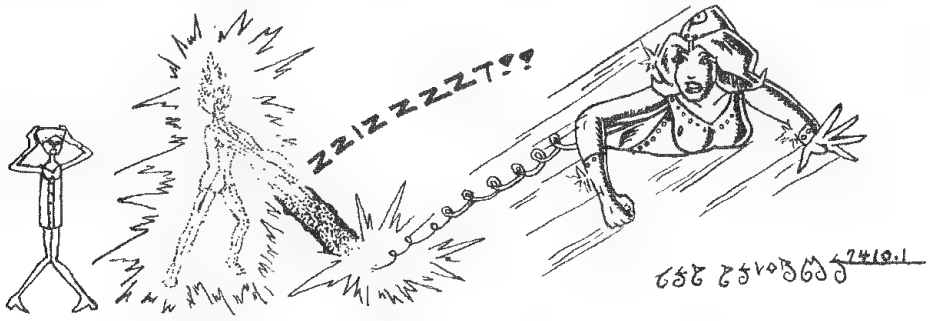
ITEM ** I just got back from a convention (AGACON '74 or DeepSouthCon XII, depending on how you look at it) in Atlanta. The advertised guest was Tony Isabella, whom I had hoped to ask about the future of Tigra (formerly the Cat), but I never saw him. I did manage to have a nice talk with George Alec Effinger, though. Besides squandering my first two-week's salary on Star Trek material and over a hundred comics, I picked up a few heroine related articles. One was a poster based on Thuvia, Maid of Mars's cover (the fourth novel in the Edgar Rice Burroughs Barsoom series). Gino D'Achille's portrait of a girl and her banth is beautiful, and the legend at the bottom reads "Come To Barsoom" (Barsoom being the martian term for Mars). Should be available from the Monster Times or your local poster shop soon for about $2.50. And for $3.50 you can get the A.C.B.A. Sketchbook, 36 individual pages of terrific art by all the pros. Of those 36, only 13 even have females in them, and only six of that number are in the superheroine vein: John Romita's FEMIZON, Neal Adams's TALIA (w/Batman), Mike Royer's BIG BARDA, Frank Brunner' CLEA (w/Doc Strange), Gene Colan's BLACK WIDOW, and **Billy Graham's** VAMPI. Looks like the artists themselves aren't any more heroine addicts than their employers. Still in all, the Sketchbook is a good buy.

LOLA BARNETT DEPT.: Why not pair off the Cat, now called Tigra, with one of the Sons Of The Tiger? They'd make a cute couple, it's an obvious match, and it's not as impossible as you may think. Tony "the Tiger" Isabella, who seems to have taken a special interest in Tigra, is also the editor of Marvel's Deadly Hands of Kung Fu, where the Sons Of The Tiger appear! Consider the possibilities. . . .

And remember, if today is the first day of the rest of your life, then what was yesterday the last of? Hmmm?

SUPER-HEROINE TOP TEN

1) WILDFLOWER by Black Orchid and the Poppy Family
2) YOU WON'T SEE ME by Sue Richards and the Invisibles
3) SPIDERS & SNAKES by Rima and the Animals
4) AMERICAN WOMAN by Liberty Belle and the Americans
5) SMALL BEGINNINGS by Shrinking Violet and the Munchkins
6) NEITHER ONE OF US by Duo Damsel and the Twinnettes
7) I GET A KICK OUT OF YOU by Stompa and the Sadists
8) NIGHT THE LIGHTS WENT OUT by Shadow Lass and the Blackouts
9) IT'S NOT THAT EASY BEING GREEN by Mint Julep and the Frogs
10) GONNA WASH THAT MAN RIGHT OUTTA MY HAIR by Medusa and the Wet-Heads



Rima
JUNGLE GIRL
ROY WILSON

the heroine revue

JUNGLE HEROINES

by Scott Gibson

I approached the reviewing of RIMA, THE JUNGLE GIRL with much hesitation and reluctance--it's difficult to criticize a classic. For, as you probably know, the RIMA book - at least the first four issues of it - are based on a famous novel by William Henry Hudson, titled Green Mansions. In addition, the comic book interpretation of Rima has been around for only a year, and it's most difficult to fairly judge a magazine until enough issues have been published to establish either a good or bad trend. Naturally, it would have been just as unfair to embark on this review before actually reading the novel itself, so I found a copy and perused it most intently. Mind you, I'm not presuming to criticize the novel in this article--that's a little out of my league--I'll confine my comments to DC's adaptation of Green Mansions.

RIMA, THE JUNGLE GIRL took its initial bow in May of 1974. The origin story, adapted from the novel by Robert Kanigher, was serialized into the first four issues of the magazine. Nestor Redondo did the art chores.

Now, I'm something less than an ardent Robert Kanigher supporter; in fact, as an editor, I think he's the worst. But I've got to give credit where credit is due. And the four-part adaption was nothing short of a masterpiece. In many ways, scripting an adaptation must be even more difficult than creating an original story, but Mr. K. handled the job admirably. William H. Hudson, the original novelist, dealt heavily with imagery; artist Redondo captured the essence of that imagery and brought it to comics form without losing any of the total effect. Hudson illustrated verbally the beauty and mystery of the jungle; Redondo makes it a reality.

Briefly, Rima's story, at least as was told in the comics, begins as she saves the life of a young man named Abel (his full name. as revealed in the novel is Abel Guevez de Argensola) who has been bitten by a poisonous snake. Abel is a survivor from a Venezuelan Revolutionist group, who escaped to the jungles after his small band of rebels was defeated. He had been living with a tribe of friendly natives when he learned about the legend of The Daughter of the Didi. It was while he went in search of this woodland sprite that he was attacked by the snake. He awakens hours later in the hut of an old man named Nuflo, who says he is Rima's grandfather. Nuflo tells Abel that it was Rima who saved his life. Just then, the Jungle Girl steps into the hut, and Abel recognizes her as the sprite he has been seeking for so long.

By the start of issue #2, Abel has recovered sufficiently enough to leave Nuflo's hut long enough to be menaced by a jaguar. Naturally, Rima appears, and, exercising an uncanny control of the cat, sends it off into the forest. This issue, Rima speaks for the first time, telling Abel of how her grandfather brought her to live in this jungle years earlier, after her mother died. Later, Rima and Abel have a disagreement when she finds he has been eating meat--something she cannot tolerate. So Abel, angry, returns to the native village. But it isn't long before he realizes that he

has become attached to the girl, and he finds himself drawn back to her enchanted forest.

In issue #3, Rima, Abel and Nuflo attempt to return to a place called Riolama, the place of the Jungle Girl's birth. It's a long and difficult journey to a mountain far away, but Rima insists that they go. Along the way, the remainder of her past is divulged by Nuflo. It turns out that he is not Rima's true grandfather, but, like Abel, he was a revolutionist. He had befriended Rima's mother, and, after her death, had raised the jungle child. Then, as the trio finally reach Riolama, Rima decides that she must go on alone.

As Abel waits for his beloved's return in issue #4, he is captured by a band of headhunters. When he finally escapes, he races back to Nuflo's hut, only to find the old man dead, killed by the savages. Frantic, he runs to a giant tree, the place he usually meets Rima. He is afraid that she may have returned to the enchanted forest, and, like her grandfather, been murdered. And, to his horror, he finds the tree is now only a smoldering remains, and he realizes that Rima must have been high in its branches when it burned. Crazed with a thirst for revenge, Abel returns to the friendly tribe of natives and leads them in an attack against the headhunters. Even though he destroys them, it is only a hollow victory for Abel, and he returns to the forest and buries old Nuflo. Suddenly, the Jungle Girl appears on the scene, scorched and burned, but alive! She and Abel disappear into the jungle foliage, to live happily until the next issue.

With one major exception, Kanigher's adaptation follows the novel quite accurately. In the book, Rima is burned to death in the giant tree; quite obviously, this couldn't be the case in the comic unless DC wanted the series discontinued. Oh, there are other minor discrepancies between novel and comic, but they are all quite excusable, since they would have slowed down the action and smooth-flowing style a comic must attain. One unusual note: In the novel, Rima is described as having quite dark hair!

The two issues published since the adaptation have maintained the quality the series initiated with the first issue. Rima's 'animal-fraternalism' continues to be a source of delight - it is reminiscent of Aquaman's control over fish and Hawkman's brotherhood with birds, yet it is as fresh a power as though it were totally original.

It would be difficult to draw lines of comparison between Rima and her Marvel counterpart Shanna. Except for traces of primitive jungle temperament which both girls share, the two are totally different characters. Rima, though certainly physically able to take care of herself, relies more on her control of animals to defeat evil. Perhaps that's how I can enjoy both heroines without considering them competitors. You can count on Shanna for a good two-fisted fight, and then read Rima for a more 'ethereal' slant on jungle life.

LEOPARD GIRL, an unpretentious and unassuming little series made its initial bow in TARZAN OF THE APES #162 (Dec., 1966). At least, to the best of my knowledge that's where it first appeared. Almost always four pages in length, the series narrated the exciting adventures of a young woman scientist named Sylvia Morgan. The plots in this back feature ranged from inane to totally ridiculous. The art was adequate, the writing generally horrendous. A sense of continuity simply wasn't. And I loved she whole shebang. How could you not enjoy it? You had to admire the writer (whoever he/she was) for being able to capsulate so much story into so little space. The series never attempted to tackle any earth shattering problems; nor did it attempt to be a parody of anything. The strip took itself quite seriously, and plodded along in a doggedly earnest fashion. Had the writing been slanted any other way, the series would have soon grown either pedantic or "cutesy." Instead, it remained to the end of its days an idealistic and delightful 'Oz-type' fantasy.

The initial episode, "The Lost City," outlined Leopard Girl's origin. Two jungle explorers happen across the ruins of an old city, rumored to have been the "stomping grounds" of a crazed scientist named Morgan, who was convicted of a murder five years earlier. One of the explorers mentions that Morgan had a daughter, 15, who disappeared to the world shortly after her father's conviction. The reminiscing ends at that point, when a huge stone wall topples onto the 2 men and pins them helpless. They lay trapped for hours, and eventually are menaced by a pack of hyenas. Out of nowhere, two leopards appear to drive the hyenas off, much to the consternation of the men, who think the leopards want to kill them, too. But then, a young girl appears, and the big cats prove to be pets of hers. The girl, never called by any name in this first episode, administers some sort of drug to the men, and they fall asleep. When the explorers awaken, the Leopard Girl and her cats are nowhere to be seen. For a moment, they doubt whether the girl was ever there, but the fact that the stones which had trapped them have been moved, and that the men's injured limbs have been bound with leaves and bark offer evidence to the contrary. They hobble back to civilization vowing to leave this lost city with all of its secrets intact.

Not a half-bad origin story, again considering that it was done in four pages. Naturally, it is no great deduction that the mysterious leopard-girl must be the missing daughter of the convicted scientist. Just as naturally, we must assume that the girl's father is innocent. All of this proves to be true in later episodes. Incidentally, the two leopards belonging to our heroine are identical to the two cats who accompany Marvel's Shanna the She-Devil in her exploits. Could it be that Shanna's creators Carole Seuling and Steve Gerber were also Leopard Girl fans? LG's cats, by the way, were named Chui (spotted) and Toto (black).

While this story is actually a complete adventure, the last panel was blurbed with a 'to be continued' banner, something that was to adorn every Leopard Girl adventure, even though most of the stories were totally independent of one another.

We eventually learn that LG's real name is Sylvia Morgan (though her nickname is Meru - and this is the name by which she is generally called), and that she is a scientist and herb-specialist of some note. She is able to inject her cats with a serum that actually enables them to speak English! In fact, in later episodes, almost all of the jungle animals around Leopard Girl begin speaking this same way. An English-spouting chimp named Munya later joins the regular cast of characters. But this is only the beginning of Meru's talents - she later conquers both telepathy and teleportation. Most delightful about these accomplishments is that the writer never bothers to use great scientific detail to explain how it all happens...the Leopard Girl simply exercises these talents as casually as she might swing from a vine.

As the series continued, stories became increasingly bizarre: In TARZAN #189, Meru met up with little yellow aliens who kidnapped one of her leopards. But, true to form, she had the situation well in hand by the bottom of page 4. In #190, she was menaced by a giant snail from one of her own experiments. In #191, LG meets a colony of men-apes who live behind a waterfall. In this same episode, Munya the chimp takes up a rifle, and we learn that he is an expert shot. TARZAN #192 found the Leopard Girl adventure reduced to 3 pages in length. This was definitely heralding the end of the series. Nonetheless, the story was an excellent one, featuring an odd combination of science fiction and human interest. Then, the next issue was a real suprise: LG's story was 5 pages long! But TARZAN #194 saw the strip back to 3 pages again. Ironically, this tale proved to be one of the most realistic yet. When crooks arrive to steal Leopard Girl's animal friends, she outwits them with only a vial of tear gas and a film-projector. Quite unexpectedly, this story carried (for the first time) the tag line 'the end.' And it was. The series had taken its final bows and was thereafter replaced with either full-length Tarzan stories or 'Brothers of the Spear' adventures. Most of Meru's stories, at least the latter ones, were drawn by Dan

Spiegle, a noted Gold Key penciller.

Leopard Girl, the unobtrusive, virtually unnoticed back feature which was short on both characterization and plot, but always long on entertainment, had slipped away into that never-never land of limbo.

Jane Hastings, a former circus trapeze artist and animal trainer came to the jungles of the African Congo with a Hollywood film crew to make a movie. Jane served as a double and stunt girl for the picture's star, Eva Dawn. While working on the film, Jane became good friends with many of the natives, all of whom insisted upon calling her JANN for some reason. When a stampede threatens the cast and crew, Jane/Jann, wearing her costume from the movie, leaps aboard a charging rhino and leads the stampede in a different direction, saving everyone. When she returns to the camp, one of the natives explains to all the movie people that "Many moons and suns ago,...there was one (girl) such as this...who lived as only a jungle child can live...her name was Jann and she served our people well, helping us in time of need. Then, one day she met and loved a white hunter of lions and left us! We thought it was forever...But she has come back...young and brave as ever!"

To this explanation, Jane Hastings blithely adds, "That Jann was my grandmother! She taught...me all about the jungle...I feel as if I belong here!" When the movie crew leaves, JANN OF THE JUNGLE decides to stay behind and carry on the work of her grandmother. Just as spontaneously, Pat Mahoney, a cameraman (and Jane's boyfriend) decides to stay with her.

All of this transpired in 6 pages - it is all told quite casually, similar to 'Leopard Girl' style. You have to admire the simplicity of plot and the casual way that complicated details are totally ignored. You can't fault the author for it - in fact, you almost want to admire him for his discarding of the typical plot-shackles. He says at the start of this tale that Ms. Hastings is a former animal trainer; having established that, the author has Jann leaping aboard a charging rhino only 2 pages later, without batting an eyelash. After all, riding wild rhinos can't be too much harder than animal training...can it? Evidently, most readers didn't mind such thinly stretched credibility. Jann received her own book when Atlas Comics' JUNGLE TALES was retitled JANN OF THE JUNGLE with #8, and ran until #17 (from Sept '54 to June '57).

Another Atlas/Marvel jungle lady to enjoy success was LORNA, QUEEN OF THE JUNGLE. She managed to best Jann by having 26 issues of her very own magazine (June '53 to August '57). Both of these girls enjoyed a brief comeback (albeit in reprint-form) in Marvel's JUNGLE ACTION #1-#4.

I realize that my info on JANN and LORNA is rather sketchy, seeing as how I had little reference material on which to rely. For that matter, I didn't touch on many other jungle beauties at all: SHEENA NYOKA, JUNGLE LIL or JUNGLE JO, to name a few. If any of you jungle die-hards want to send me info on any of these ladies or others, I will try to assemble it all into another jungle article, to be presented at some future (far-off future, I hope!) date.

Dear Al,

A word of thanks for the copy of THA. I thoroughly enjoyed it, and I look forward with anticipation to #2. I'm glad to hear that copy and art are coming in in such a manner that will keep the fanzine a lively and going concern.

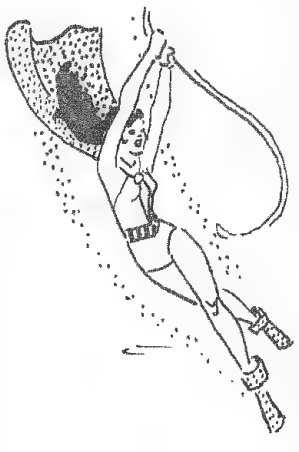
I am discussing with Mercy a possible contribution on something from the Golden Age, and I have sent her some Fiction House comics to use as resource books for the style, etc. that was used in that period.

I've been looking over my collection, and it strikes me more clearly than ever before that FH's emphasis on heroines in their own series, plus their liberal use of girls in the hero series, was certainly not directed to the youngsters. Even the advertisements carried on the inside and back covers were not directed to children. There was one that sold a hair restorer...

Both you and Mercy have mentioned correspondence with Tom O'Reilly of Charlotte. I've bought his SPU series and think he does a good job. I'm glad to hear that he's going to be involved in THA and the CHFC.

Frank Parsons
Lexington, Va.

Your observation in re Fiction House's policy is interesting, and I certainly agree. (Frank has an outstanding Golden Age collection and is in a position to speak authoritatively in this area. For that same reason, our THA readers can look forward to his up-coming THA articles on Golden Age heroines and to their neo-Golden Age illustration by Mercy Van Vlack.)



Such Golden Age heroines as Phantom Lady (right) certainly did seem to be created with adult fans largely in mind. (Therefore it's no coincidence that you'll see them frequently in THA illos.)

By the way, Frank, we couldn't agree more with your praise of Tom's art. We heartily recommend his pin-up illos (see the ad in this issue) to all our CHFC members!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Al,

THA #1: to sum it up in two words, I *love it*!...I really enjoyed the article on Shanna, especially giving all the mags she's been in! A great help to me in finding all the books she's been in....The price is *very* fair. 75¢ isn't a fortune. *I know* how much printing and such trivia as that cost.

Suggestion: MORE, MORE, MORE! I would like to see more heroines represented, especially ones like Iron Lady that I never heard of before.

Suggestion: One day, have a list of all known (all you know of) heroines in alphabetical order, when and where they first appeared, and when they were stopped (if applicable).

Joanna P. Moore
Williamsburg, Indiana

Yes, the costs of those "trivia" are not trivial...and we're glad to know that you - and many other fans - consider the material our staff produces to be well worth the cost of bringing it to you!

SPECIAL ATTENTION: CONTRIBUTORS

We recommend that CHFC newcomers who contribute unsolicited artwork for potential THA publication send spot illos of quarter-page size or smaller. If suitable for potential publication, these will be placed in our all-important general illustration file, from which most of our published illos are taken.

Unsolicited full-page contributions involving artwork will be considered, but they must be 6 3/8 inches wide and 10 inches high. We are glad to receive and evaluate all written material accompanied by a self-adressed stamped envelope.

A LOOK AT THE LEGIONNAIRESSES

SCOTT R. TAYLOR

Eight of DC's many heroines are all found in one magazine! I refer to Saturn Girl, Phantom Girl, Light Lass, Shadow Lass, Duo Damsel, Dream Girl, Princess Projectra and Shrinking Violet. These are the female members of the Legion of Super-Heroes, currently appearing in SUPERBOY. A few issues ago, one of these gals was dropped from the role of legionnairess, leaving but seven girls in the group. Now, as this crime-fighting group of the 30th Century may have only 25 active members (on a very flimsy excuse), that means that the Legion has only 24% female members! Currently, the Legion has only 23 members, so why not add two new heroines, or at least one, while bringing Supergirl up to active status? By the way, I, for one, don't even remember Supergirl resigning. Anyone out there know in which issue she did? As it is most unlikely that any new heroines will be initiated, I'll drop this subject. Instead, I'll give a Legionnairess run-down:

DREAM GIRL - This Naltorian has the gift of prophecy. Actually, Nura Nal has dreams that always come true. All the people of Naltor have this power, so theirs is a rather hectic world. Dream Girl's boyfriend is Star Boy. Both of them were previously in the Legion of Substitute Heroes.

DUO DAMSEL - Luorno Durgo is no longer a legionnaire. She gave up her membership in order to marry Bouncing Boy. She comes from the planet Cargg, where the inhabitants have the power to split into three bodies, and she was originally called Triplicate Girl, until one of her bods was destroyed by Computo, a computer menace.

LIGHT LASS - Ayla Ranzz is a rather unique legionnaire, as she has had two different powers. When her brother Garth (Lightning Lad) died, she used make-up to disguise herself and take his place in the Legion. Later, this was discovered, and she took the name Lightning Lass. Dream Girl later changed Ayla's power to one of making things super-light, and she was then dubbed Light Lass. Her guy is Timber Wolf. Ayla's and Garth's older brother will be one of the Adult Legion's deadly foes, and already has fought the Legion as a teen.

PHANTOM GIRL - Tinya Wazzo is her name, and becoming an immaterial phantom is her fame. She can walk, fly, run, etc. through anything except certain types of radiation in this form. She and Ultra Boy have something going.

PRINCESS PROJECTRA - is really a princess. She hails from the planet Orando, where her father reigns. She has the power of projecting realistic illusions which, at their best, can cause a person

to go insane, or cause a man to kill himself, or be killed with fear. Karate Kid is her steady.

SATURN GIRL - Imra Ardeen was a charter member of the LSH. She and Lightning Lad are engaged; hopefully, this status will change, as it has remained this way for several years. She's from Saturn, where everyone has ESP. She can read minds, control animals and people, and probably do more with her powers.

SHRINKING VIOLET - Salu Digby, as all Imskians, can shrink to practically any size. She has the exact opposite power of fellow Legionnaire, Colossal Boy. She is the only gal in the Legion whose guy is not in the club. Duplicate Boy is that guy, and he lives about 3.26 light years away, on the planet Lallor, where he is a world hero. Needless to say, the pair rarely get together. If Qued was really interested in Salu however, I feel he would duplicate a teleporter's power, and come to Earth a lot more often. You'd better keep an eye on that guy, Vi!

SHADOW LASS - Is she the one to cause the rivalry between two of our favorite Legionnaires, as LSH author Cary Bates said will become noticeable soon? Tasmia Malor was the guide for the LSH, when they explored the reasons behind her home planet, Talok's, sudden, warlike ways. She fell for Brainiac 5, and became a Legionnaire, probably for this reason. Later, she became Mon-El's girl, and still is today. Will she again become fickle, and cause a rivalry between Mon and Brainy? She is slated to die, preventing the Science Asteroid's destruction.

SUPERGIRL - No longer an active member of the LSH, she should be making visits, at least! A Kryptonian, she has all of the usual powers, and if you don't already know all about her, shame on you.

NIGHT GIRL - She is a member of the Legion of Substitute Heroes, and Cosmic Boy is her regular date. She has super-strength, but only in a shadow or at night. She is Lydda Jath, of Earth.

So, there you have the girls of the 30th Century. Let's get more of them into the LEGION OF SUPER-HEROES! Write to Murray Boltinoff, the editor of SUPERBOY, and demand more heroines!

WANT TO KNOW MORE?

We know many of you are not only comics heroines fans but Legion buffs as well, and thus you are already well informed on the points Scott has included in his summary. Others of you, however, may want to learn more about the Legion and its young distaff members.

In either case, we recommend that you subscribe to the Legion's outstanding fanzine, THE LEGION OUTPOST. This popular quarterly offset 'zine focuses on the Legion from every direction, but also includes much general comics news and a raft of related features. To subscribe (four issues are $5.00 by first class or $3.50 by second class mail) or for further information, write to Michael A. Flynn, 1354 Herschell Street, Bronx, N.Y. 10461.

Outpost editor Harry Broertjes has been a key supporter of the CHFC since its inception, but that's not the only reason we urge you to read his 'zine! A.T.

The Picture From Here:

THAT WONDER WOMAN PILOT

BY BOB RODI

WONDER WOMAN, an ABC Movie of the Week, was, as most of them are, a pilot film for a possible series starring tennis star Cathy Lee Crosby as the Amazon. I am still unsure as to whether or not this would be of benefit to Wonder Woman fans... after viewing the film twice, I've noticed that it owes more to "Mission: Impossible" than to the famous comic book.

The plot, in true IM fashion, involves five books which hold the code-names and locations of 39 American undercover agents without which the authorities are unable to contact them for 72 hours. Of course, the books are held for ransom. Steve Trevor (alive and well and as boring as ever as played by Kaz Garas) sends his secretary, Diana Prince, to retrieve the books. There is a short and foggy explanation of how Diana became Wonder Woman, and it most likely left most non-fans in a haze.

The story then gets going full-swing, with Diana being ambushed by uglies who jump out of every nook and cranny. Diana polishes them off without even ruffling her hair, and it looks as though she's about to fight the movie out as Diana.

She DOES change to Wonder Woman, though...but there is a terribly disturbing coziness between Di and her enemies. They all know who she is, and she meets them for dinner and socializes with them. The lowest point of the film comes when Wonder Woman tracks down and finally meets the big boss, played by veteran actor Ricardo Montalban, giving Big Bosses a bad name forever. The two sip their champagne as they exchange little witticisms and it's quite embarrassing for the viewer. In fact, it seems that Montalban is upset when he has to bring up their "little problem."

There are, however, several excellent moments in the film, one of which is a fantastic death-duel between Diana and a renegade Amazon, Angela (played with finesse by Anitra Ford). The duel is set incredibly well to music, and slow-motion is used effectively in action shots, as well as to show Diana's shock at seeing her sister's face contorted with rage.

The battle ends all too quickly, but it's not a disappointment. Herein lies the only really good dialogue in the movie (Angela: "I want the things this world has to offer.") and, Wonder Woman is in character with the comix heroine by letting Angela go...but not with-

out some remorse. This is, after all, her sister.

The film concludes rather sloppily, with Montalban, now in the hands of the law, making his big, dramatic exit with "Wonder Woman, I love you." It is good that this comes at the end of the film, because after that line, you're ready to turn off the set.

As an action film, WONDER WOMAN is good. Ms. Crosby's athletic prowess is given full sway, and there is plenty of footage of her running, jumping, throwing, swinging, diving, swimming, cycling, etc. She so exemplifies the exciting spirit of Wonder Woman that one doesn't even mind her blond hair and new uniform. But the other liberties taken with the Wonder Woman legend are just not tolerable. It is beyond me why television writers insist of re-writing the comics (a trait also shown by "Batman" and "Shazam!"). These liberties have almost spoiled the film for many Wonder Woman purists, of which I am one.

Should WONDER WOMAN indeed become a TV series, one can only hope that it is with a little more respect for the heroine who has made the name "Wonder Woman" an undeniable piece of Americana.

* * *

This season, perhaps more than any other, detective series are proving to be one continuous yawn. TV is suffering from an overload of rough, tough, hard-guy detectives whose names all seem to have that masculine "K" sound... Kojak, Kodiak, Nakia, Kolchak, Rockford, etc. etc. However, detective fans need look no further for variety. Friday nights, NBC gives us "Police Woman."

"Police Woman" is Sgt. Suzanne (Pepper) Anderson, played beautifully by Angie Dickinson. She's intelligent, she's beautiful, she's innovative; but, for once, she's still very feminine. Pepper Anderson is a police woman, but she's not hard-as-nails. Pepper doesn't employ masculinity to make her a more effective crime-fighter...she does it within the limits demanded by her womanhood, and she comes across as very real.

Earl Holliman co-stars as Lt. Bill Crowley, Pepper's "side-kick," and there is a nice rapport between the two, but it is bothersome that he handles most of the action scenes.

The stories are tight and suspenseful; the action is exciting without being pretentious or melodramatic. Ms. Dickinson is an excellent actress and she gives Pepper real depth. She is very beautiful, which can be a handicap in a series which strives for reality, but she is talented enough to overcome beauty and use it as an asset rather than a handicap. Very rarely has an actress been as good as she is in a crime series...and "Police Woman" is a show well worth your time. I suggest that you drop all plans for Friday and watch it.

* * *

Comments? Suggestions? Criticisms? The address for it all is: Bob Rodi Jr., 34 Chatham Lane, Oak Brook, Illinois, 60521.

Next issue: "Get Christy Love!"

COSTUME QUIZ

by Scott Taylor

Here's a test of your knowledge of comics heroines costumes, past and present. List the adventuresses who are identified with the items pictured below.

Answers on page 32

BATMANIA

IS BACK!!

The third new issue (#20) of The Fanzine for Batman Fans will be out in early December, with contributions from Tom Fagan and Ray Miller, an inside report on the Metropolis, Illinois fiasco and a cover by Biljo White, not to mention items from THA's own Mercy Van Vlack, Dwayne Best and Scott Taylor. #19 is still available, featuring Mike Friedrich's exclusive account of his first sale, but #18 is sold out...

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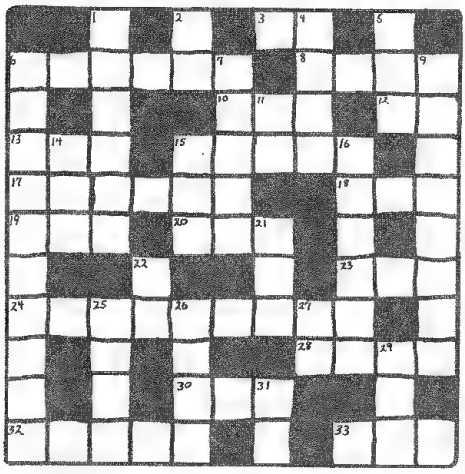

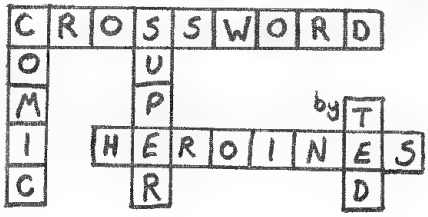

ACROSS

3) *This __ an easy one."*
6) *Heroine of Steve Canyon*
8) *Where Supergirl flies*
10) *Foster-father of Flash's wife*
12) *Exclamation of fear*
13) *The very first heroine(?)*
15) *Female Green Lantern of Korugar*
17) *Founder of the CHFC*
18) *What Elsie the cow says*
19) *School for LSH trainees (initials)*
20) *What Krypto says*
23) *One of the Bobbsey twins*
24) *Mary Marvel's foster-mother*
28) *Congresswoman Batgirl Gordon's nickname*
30) *Found on page 20 of most comics*
32) *Wonder Girl*
33) *Captain Mar-Vell's deceased girl*

DOWN

1) *Where Wonder Woman gets her smarts*
2) *Yours truly*
4) *What the Inferior 5 was*
5) *One entry requirement for the LSH*
6) *What Green Arrow calls Black Canary*
7) *Wonder Woman's headgear*
9) *The subject of this puzzle*
11) *Former Marvel editor's initials*
14) *Female Defender*
15) *Recently revived JLA foe*
16) *Spock's mom on Star Trek*
21) *Underground heroine spoof: Power ___*
25) *What Bruce Wayne calls the bat which flew in his window*
26) *Ancient Norse goddess (variation)*
27) *Played the heroine of The Exorcist (initials)*
29) *Famous rodent*
31) *Nickname for Wonder Woman*

Solution in THA #3

MARGINAL MUTTERINGS

by Dwayne Best

The heroine-listing project mentioned here last issue is progressing nicely (there are now more than three hundred ladies on it). More help is needed, though. Is there anyone out there who can provide any information on the following heroines? Tiger Girl, Miss Victory, Owl Girl, Rocketgirl, Lady Fairplay, Yankee Girl, Airgirl, Leopard Girl, Ranger Girl...we need the title she appeared in, the publisher, and some general information. Thanks to Mercy Van Vlack (my co-conspirator in this undertaking) and Kent Akselsen for all their help.

*****

As of this point, Atlas(Seaboard)doesn't appear to have any color comics devoted to heroines, although one of their black-and-white books will be titled Devilina (formerly Tales of the Sorceress). We'll just have to hope for the best, 'cos all the plans aren't in yet.

FLYGIRL

*****

Unfortunately, the idea of a correspondence column has not worked out as expected, hence, it isn't in this issue. The CHFC has, however, something planned that will probably take its place.

*****

Enough for now. Any comments or suggestions? How about criticisms? And don't forget the information request! Send it all to:

Dwayne Best
6 Nobile Lane
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

ANSWERS TO COSTUME QUIZ

A. Supergirl	N. Thorn
B. Scarlet Witch	O. Black Orchid
C. Mary Marvel	P. Light Lass
D. Saturn Girl	Q. Shanna
E. Batgirl	R. Dream Girl
F. Wonder Girl	S. Shadow Lass
G. The Cat	T. Prin. Projectra
H. Insect Queen	U. Phantom Girl
I. Platinum Girl	V. Black Canary
J. Wonder Woman	W. Zatanna
K. Miss America	X. Night Girl
L. Medusa	Y. Stompa
M. Big Barda	Z. Ms. America

WANTED: COMICS FROM ANY PUBLICATION ABOUT JUNGLE OR SUPER-HEROINES (example; SUPERGIRL, BATGIRL ,ETC.) GOLDEN AGE TO PRESENT. MUST BE IN GOOD CONDITION.

WRITE GARY WARREN
5526-35th,
LUBBOCK,TEX.79407

NOW LISTEN HERE!

Here's what the fans are saying:

Dear Al,

First, let me say I enjoyed THE HEROINE ADDICT very much. I think you have a winner! and to prove I mean what I say, I'm inclosing $6.00 for a full-page ad. I've also inclosed some artwork I did for you.

I'm extremely interested in The Comics Heroines Fan Club. I know it will be successful. As to how I know, well, I draw and publish a series called The Super Pin Up (SPU). I started it a few months ago with "The Damsels From DC" (Series #1). Originally I had intended to cover everyone in comicdom: heroes, villains, et al.

Well, all the buyers of the SPU #1 and #2 keep insisting that I stay with the ladies. So there are a lot of people out there in Fandom who appreciate the fair sex in comics.

I hope you can tell I also like the femmes in comics. I'm looking forward to the next issue of THA.

Tom O'Reilly
Charlotte, N.C.

Since writing the above letter, Tom has become a most welcome addition to the roster of THA contributing artists. He's going to help make the CHFC successful!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Al,

I just got THA #1 and it was great! I'm all for the "have your own personal ad expertly typed, layed out and illustrated for you by one of the talented members of the AHPA staff" bit. Get me an artist!!

I hope you talk about some of Star Trek's heroines. Okay, you have the fanzine, what about the club? The elections?

Keep sending me THA! Thank you!

Gary Warren
Lubbock, Texas

Gary, the CHFC is primarily a publishing club, devoted to producing the things comics heroines fans want to see and read. It is not a "club" in the sense that it holds meetings or elections. How do you like the artist we assigned you?

Dear Mr. Tanner,

Since you are open to suggestions, I have one. As you know, the Supergirl, Teen Titans, and Mary Marvel comics have been discontinued unfortunately, so why don't you print your own stories of these and other superheroines?

Mark Rothman
Plainview, N.Y.

Our feeling is that creative people do their most inspired, effective work when given the opportunity to work with original characters and concepts of their own creation. Thus our AHPA fiction 'zines will feature brand new adventure heroines - and we hope you will like them just as much as any of the ones you mentioned!

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Hi, Al!

First, congratulations on a very successful first issue. Am I correct in thinking future issues will be a bit longer? I hope so. I finished reading this one much too soon, though when it's something I've enjoyed, it always feels that way.

I liked your greeting at the beginning. I hope this sort of friendly atmosphere will prevail in all our publications. Too many fanzines tend to become impersonal.

I also liked the volume of art included. The written articles were equally good, well-informed, well-researched, and (to me at least) well-written. One thing I hope you plan is to include some kind of letters arrangement.

Another thing, keep in "editorial comments." They invite comments. By the way, I'm a female regular reader of the Big S and a Shanna fan.

One more thing. Please remember the average fan tends to feel insecure when in the same club with people like yourself, Scott G. and Mercy who have their names plastered all over everywhere and also have actually had letters printed. It can be quite breathtaking.

Joanne Papin
Chicago, Illinois

And now for an "editorial comment." We agree on the importance of artwork, well-written articles, and a friendly atmosphere....and the inclusion of the all-important lettercol is one of the

reasons why this issue is longer than the first.

As to insecurity, if it weren't for the "average fans," there would be no CHFC, and people like Scott G. and Mercy (who are among the world's friendliest by the way) would have no reason to do their thing in THA.... Besides, Joanne, you are no "average fan": you are a first class comics-heroines booster!...(Our names are plastered all over everywhere? Damn that graffiti!) Thanks for your comments and suggestions.

~ ~ ~ ~ ~

Dear Albert,

Your premiere issue of THE HEROINE ADDICT was good and well-laid out - what there was of it. 75¢ is a bit much for a 20-page 'zine, even an offset one with reduced type. Perhaps you might have done better to start off with mimeograph, or even ditto, until your mailing list was longer.

"The Heroine Review" of Shanna was very interesting and well-written. On the matter of the relative appeal of various features to the two sexes, I'd like to point out that most protagonists of both sexes are traditionally attractive and appealing to the opposite sex. It's true that most comics writers and artists are male, and perhaps, consciously or subconsciously, therefore tend to make their females even more attractive, but this is far from certain.

"Marginal Mutterings" was quite interesting, though I really don't care much for the way either Batwoman or Batgirl have been handled. They detract from The Batman's originality at any rate.

I deliberately withheld comment on your editorials till the end. At times I feel the original spirit of fandom has been vanishing - as a co-operative venture between fans.... 'Zines like THA are really what fandom's all about!

Rich Morrissey
Framingham, Maine
(Editor: BATMANIA)

Rich, our other members have actually applauded our decision to start right off with a quality offset 'zine instead of "going second class" in the beginning...and they have been quite willing, as founding members, to pay their necessary share of the printing costs while helping to increase the mailing list so that the per-capita share will become less. ...As for the problem of detracting from The Batman's originality...Well, let's have Batgirl look into that right now!

Albert,

It amazes me how such a well-put-together fanzine coulda come about in such a relatively short time. Usually fanzines start out as ditto or mimeo things and gradually acquire more class. Even Martin Greim's COMIC CRUSADER was still ditto as late as 1968. And those 'zines that start off offset usually bomb out after the first issue or so. I am voting in your awards tallies, something I always find fun and will forever maintain does count, somehow.

Lester Boutillier
New Orleans, La.

Well, the THA concept has been called "an explosive idea," but there are no signs our popular 'zine will bomb out. On the contrary, our subscribers are clamoring for more!

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